Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising:

a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity,

an expandable prosthesis ~~having first and second ends~~, means for releasably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member, wherein the means for releasably securing the ~~prosthesis~~ stent comprises a colored mesh; and

a visual marker in the form of a colored band extending around the colored mesh; wherein the visual marker is colored with a colorant to enhance visualization and is capable of being seen under direct vision within said cavity using said scope without the need of fluoroscopy; wherein the band is a tubular member, and wherein the color of the band contrasts with the color of the mesh.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for releasably securing includes releasing means operable from the proximal extremity of the flexible elongate member.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for releasably securing includes crocheted material extending along at least a portion of the length of the prosthesis.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the crocheted material includes a thread having a plurality of loops extending around the prosthesis.

5. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the visual marker is a colored marker looped around the thread and bound to the prosthesis by the thread.

6. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the visual marker is an additional thread having tightly spaced loops around a portion of the prosthesis.

7. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein a portion of the thread is tightly spaced loops around the prosthesis to form the visual marker.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the prosthesis is a stent.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the prosthesis has a first length when secured to the flexible elongate member and a second length different from the first length when released from the flexible elongate member.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the visual marker is secured to one of the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and the prosthesis a distance from one of the first and second ends of the prosthesis equal to the second length to facilitate desired placement of the prosthesis in the cavity.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the prosthesis foreshortens during release from the flexible elongate member, the second length being shorter than the first length so as to reflect such foreshortening.

12-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for releasably securing includes a thread for crocheting the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible

elongate member, the thread being secured to the colored band so that upon pulling the thread to release the prosthesis the colored band is pulled off the prosthesis and onto the flexible elongate member.

15. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread having tightly spaced loops along a portion of the prosthesis.

16. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the visual marker is a bioabsorbable material extending around a portion of the prosthesis.

17. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the bioabsorbable material is a gelatin.

18-22. (Previously cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus of claim 1, ~~for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising:~~

~~a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity,~~

~~an~~ wherein the expandable prosthesis ~~having~~ has a length ~~and first and second ends~~, and wherein the means for releasably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member ~~extending~~ extends along substantially the entire length of the prosthesis in a repeating pattern~~, wherein the means for releasably securing the prosthesis comprises a mesh; and~~

~~a visual marker in the form of a colored band extending around the mesh; wherein the visual marker is colored with a colorant to enhance visualization and is capable of being seen under direct vision within said cavity using said scope without the need of fluoroscopy~~.

24. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread.

25. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread having tightly spaced loops along a portion of the prosthesis.

26. (Previously cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the means for releasably securing includes crocheted material extending along at least a portion of the length of the prosthesis.

28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the crocheted material includes a thread having a plurality of loops extending in the repeating pattern around the prosthesis, a portion of the thread being tightly spaced loops different from the repeating pattern to form the visual marker.

29. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the visual marker is an additional thread having tightly spaced loops around a portion of the prosthesis.

30. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising:~~

~~a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity,~~

~~an~~ expandable prosthesis~~,~~ has first and second ends

~~means for releasably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member; wherein the means for releasably securing the prosthesis comprises a mesh; and~~

~~a visual marker in the form of a colored band which extends around the mesh; wherein the visual marker is colored with a colorant to enhance visualization and is capable of being seen under direct vision within said cavity using said scope without the need for fluoroscopy~~.

31. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread.

32. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread having tightly spaced loops along a portion of the prosthesis.

33. (Previously cancelled)

34. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the visual marker is a thread having tightly spaced loops around a portion of the prosthesis.

35. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the expandable prosthesis has first and second ends, the visual marker overlying the prosthesis intermediate the first and second ends.

36. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said outer surface of said visual marker comprises silicone.

37. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said outer surface of said visual marker comprises silicone.

38. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said outer surface of said visual marker comprises silicone.

39. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus of claim 1, ~~for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising:~~

~~a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity;~~

~~an expandable prosthesis having first and second ends, means for releasably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member; wherein said means for releasably securing the prosthesis comprises a mesh; and~~

~~a visual marker in the form of a colored band extending around the mesh,~~ said visual marker overlying the prosthesis intermediate the first and second ends and being capable of being seen by the operator in the field of view secured to one of the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and the prosthesis for facilitating placement of the prosthesis in the mammalian body~~;~~

~~wherein said visual marker comprises a colorant to enhance visualization and wherein the movement of the visual marker can be seen under direct vision within said cavity by said operator by means of said scope without the need of fluoroscopy~~.

40. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the means for releasably securing the prosthesis is of a color that is different than the color of the visual marker.

41. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the means for releasably securing the prosthesis is of a color that is different than the color of the visual marker.

42. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the means for releasably securing the prosthesis is of a color that is different than the color of the visual marker.

43. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising:

a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity,

an expandable prosthesis stent having first and second ends, means for releasably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and

a visual marker capable of being seen by the operator in the field of view secured to the prosthesis for facilitating placement of the prosthesis in the mammalian body; wherein the visual marker is colored to enhance visualization and permits the placement of the prosthesis without the need of fluoroscopy and is capable of being freed from the prosthesis; wherein the band is a tubular member.